

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS:

New Figures 1a and 14 have been added.

REMARKS

Initially, applicant would like to thank Examiner Fineman for granting an interview and for her time discussing the application as part of the interview. Applicant would also like to thank Supervisory Patent Examiner Dunn for attending the interview and for his input during the interview.

The application has been amended to place the application in condition for allowance at the time of the next Official Action.

New drawing Figure 1a is added as discussed at the interview showing the optical element 11 along different positions of the curved guide 12 so that as the distance of the vision aid from an object decreases, there is a decrease in distance between respective optical elements of the lens systems, consistent with the disclosure on page 11, lines 10-26 and page 22, lines 1-15 of the application as filed and consistent with Figure 1 as filed. The drawing is believed not to introduce new matter.

New drawing Figure 14 is added showing a two lens system with at least one objective lens 70 and one eyepiece 71 each, consistent with the disclosure on page 22, lines 1-15 of the application as filed. The drawing is believed not to introduce new matter.

The specification is amended to include references to the above new drawing figures. No new matter has been added.

Claims 1, 6-62, 64 and 65 are pending in the application. Claims 6-61 are withdrawn from consideration as being directed to a non-elected species.

Claims 1, 64 and 65 were rejected as unpatentable over KATO et al. 6,134,048 in view of Austrian Patent Publication No. AT 000307 (AT-307) and KAWAMURA 6,671,087. That rejection is respectfully traversed.

Independent claims 1 and 65 are amended as discussed at the interview to recite that the curved guide is arranged so that as the distance of the vision aid from an object decreases, there is a decrease in distance between respective optical elements of the lens systems.

As noted on page 3 of the Official Action and as discussed at the interview KATO does not disclose curved guides.

KAWAMURA is offered for the disclosure of curved guides. However, as pointed out at the interview, as disclosed on column 14, lines 37-44 of KAWAMURA, the guides of KAWAMURA are shaped so that as the lens separation decreases, the lens-object distance increases. KAWAMURA requires such a system to reduce image separation during close in work. KAWAMURA neither offers motivation for changing his system to that which is recited, nor would the recited configuration of curved guides be usable in the system of KAWAMURA.

AT-307 does not teach curved guides. Accordingly, applicant has amended the claims to recite that the curved guide is arranged so that as the distance of the vision aid from an object decreases there is a decrease in distance between respective optical elements of the lens systems. This amendment is believed to distinguish over the art of record.

Claim 62 was rejected as unpatentable over KATO in view of AT-307 and further in view of KANDA 4,886,340. That rejection is respectfully traversed.

KANDA is only cited for the teaching of a tilting element. KANDA does not teach or suggest a curved guide as recited in claim 1. As set forth above, KATO in view of AT-307 and KAWAMURA does not teach or suggest a curved guide as recited in claim 1. Since claim 62 depends from claim 1 and further defines the invention, claim 62 is believed patentable at least for depending from an allowable independent claim.

Claim 1 was previously indicated as generic. Since claim 1 is believed allowable and is generic, withdrawn claims 6-61 should also be considered and allowed.

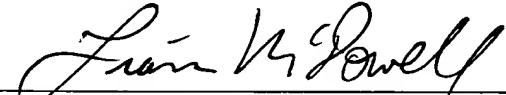
Claim 65 is amended consistent with page 22, lines 1-3 and as shown in new Figure 14.

In view of the present amendment and the foregoing remarks, it is believed that the present application has been placed in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. §1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

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Appendix:

The Appendix includes the following item:

- new Figures 1a and 14